



California State
Board of Equalization

MICHELLE STEEL

newsletter



"Fighting for California Taxpayers"

As income tax season approaches I'd like to share information about an important program that is taking place across the state.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, known as VITA, helps low- to moderate-income individuals and families file their taxes for free. IRS certified volunteers are available at locations across the state nearly every day from the end of January until April 15, making sure Californians have the help they need to file their taxes.



This year, I have joined with the United Way of Orange County to host VITA events throughout the county. I am also promoting VITA events in the rest of the Third District. To learn more about VITA you can visit my website by clicking [here](#).

I'd also like to share a recent opinion [piece](#) by Carolyn Cavecche, President of the Orange County Taxpayers Association, highlighting the end of the Board of Equalization's automatic security deposit program.

You will also find a [piece](#) that I wrote this month about the high costs to Californians of the "Affordable Care Act," which grows the ranks of the uninsured and increases taxes on all of us.

As always, I am honored to serve as your taxpayer advocate. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Friday, January 31, 2014

In this Issue...

[In the News](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

An update on taxpayer education events coming up in February.



Steel and her fellow Board members honor Korean community leader Mr. Jin Oh Kim in celebration of Korean American Day.

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In The News

Carolyn Cavecche: Ending wasteful spending programs

(Op-ed: Orange County Register)

Michelle Steel: Growing the ranks of the uninsured

(Op-ed: Orange County Register)

Allen's bill to save fire rings passes, but fight against coastal regulators continues

(Michelle Steel, FlashReport.org)

Tax prep session at college

(Jeremiah Dobruck, The Daily Pilot)



*Steel with Tustin-Santa Ana
Rotary president Steve Lewis.*

Upcoming Taxpayer Events

On **February 1**, I will be hosting the kick-off in a series of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance events in Orange County. The kick-off event will take place at Irvine Valley College starting at 10:00 am.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program hosted by Orange County United Way offers free tax help to individuals and families with household incomes of less than \$58,000.

Every year, VITA volunteers who have been trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service offer FREE tax filing assistance around Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties, and throughout the state.

The Steel Summary

January

1st—New Year's Day

14th—Steel speaks at the Apartment Association of Orange County's Board of Directors meeting.

16th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Sacramento.

23rd—Steel speaks at the Tustin/Santa Ana Rotary club luncheon.

28th—Steel speaks at the Los Alamitos/Seal Beach Rotary club.

For more information you can go to my website, [here](#), or follow this link to find a [VITA event](#) near you!

On **February 27**, I will be hosting a free tax seminar for non-profit and faith-based organizations with the City of Tustin, at the Clifton C. Miller Community Center in Tustin.

Nonprofit organizations with questions about state tax laws, new and prospective nonprofits, and those hoping to expand their knowledge should consider attending this informative seminar. Representatives from the BOE, Employment Development Department, Franchise Tax Board, and the Attorney General's Office, will offer important presentations.

It is an excellent opportunity to network and to interact directly with state and federal tax agencies; to learn about their rights as taxpayers, and how to navigate our complicated state and federal tax codes.

You can take a look at the invitation [here](#), and register for this event by clicking [here](#).

30th—Steel speaks at the Stanton Business Alliance's 4th Annual Business Appreciation luncheon.

February

1st—Steel sponsors the Orange County kick-off event for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance with the Orange County United Way at Irvine Valley College.

5th—Steel speaks at the Hong Kong Association of Southern California's Chinese New Year reception in Newport Beach.

12th—Steel speaks at the Rossmoor Women's club.

17th—President's Day.

20th—Steel speaks at the Fountain Valley Mayor's breakfast.

25th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

26th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

27th—Board of Equalization Meeting in Culver City.

27th—Steel sponsors a free tax seminar for non-profit and faith-based organizations in Tustin with the City of Tustin.

Taxpayer Links

*Helpful Links for California
Taxpayers*

[Joel Angeles](#)
Chief Deputy
[Arie Dana](#)
Communications Director
[Rosalyn Vasquez](#)
Tax Counsel
[Darin Henry](#)
Senior Advisor

[Tim Treichelt](#)
Tax Counsel III
[Keith Chatprapachai](#)
Senior Professional Advisor
[Ray Morquecho](#)
District Representative
[Jessica No](#)
Administrative Assistant

Board of Equalization Links

[Taxpayers' Rights Advocate](#)
[Electronic Filing \(E-Services\)](#)
[Board of Equalization Forms](#)
[Seller's Permit Application](#)
[Verify Permit or License](#)
[California Use Tax Form](#)
[Claim for Refund Form](#)

Franchise Tax Board Links

[Franchise Tax Board Home Page](#)
[California Tax Service Center](#)
[Forms and Publications](#)
[Form 540 & Form 540A](#)

[Neil Shah](#)
Deputy & Senior Advisor
[Peter Kim](#)
Taxpayer Advocate
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